

and bickerings, the dreary drivel of words, these make it plain to any one who reads that this body is no longer what it once was, nor what it was intended to be. Time was when this dignified body could be relied on to hold in check or counteract the recklessness and extravagance of the House, but the reverse is now true. What is the difficulty? While men are elected to that body as always, yet it cannot be said that they are there by the vote of the people, nor by the will of the people. Men who have been fortunate in accumulating millions thwart the will of the people by purchasing a seat in the Senate, while others are put there by the party whose they are and which they serve. Personal ambition and party ends are first in the hearts of these men; the welfare of the country has not even a secondary place; they are willing "to do much for their country if it is compatible with doing a great deal more for themselves." Unless we greatly mistake the spirit of the American people such a state of affairs cannot and will not be tolerated much longer. The rights and the common good and the interests of the people are being trifled with. When reaction takes place the Senate will be no more.

#### Judged by a Human Creed

A notable instance of a sharp defined creed has been furnished by a recent occurrence in the Southern Presbyterian church. The Rev. Dr. M. H. Houston stands as high as any member of that body for ability, learning and piety, and moreover has for many years been a remarkable successful missionary to China, turning many of the Gentiles from dumb idols to serve the living God. But Dr. Houston in the diligent study of the Bible imbibed convictions on the subject of personal sanctification, and on some minor points of administration, a few degrees at variance with the Westminster Standards, which constitute the creed of the church. Immediately the missionary is summoned to his trial, is given the option to swallow the standards whole, or be dismissed from the ministry, is denied an appeal to the Scriptures, and is finally eliminated from the company of the faithful.

It is astonishing that so intelligent a body as the Southern Presbyterian ministry should not see the necessity of imparting a certain elasticity, in all matters not strictly fundamental, to a creed gotten up three hundred years ago by men not a whit more inspired, able or conscientious than their successors of the present day. Must we suppose that the Westminster divines, or any other body of creed makers, in a mystic antiquity, received a dispensation from the Holy Ghost to make iron moulds in which to cast Christians for all time to come? The notion is absurd. The Bible foundation of truth and

grace is perennial, and adapted to all times, and the church of the Holy Ghost is just as qualified to expound it in one age as in another. The conservatism which prudently keeps the old landmarks in view has its sphere of usefulness, but an ultra conservatism possesses a Dead Sea quality which suggests a serious doubt whether it has any value at all as a guide for souls.

#### Important Announcement

First, here is something every pastor in the church ought to have. It is "The Pastor's Pocket Record," by Sylvanus Stall, a new and revised edition of that which has been for the past 15 years the Standard Record for the use of ministers. Printed headings and special ruled, affording space for recording of 84 church officers, 619 members, and 5,679 pastoral calls directly opposite; 42 communion seasons, 138 baptisms, 84 marriages, 105 funerals, 173 sermons, 63 addresses, 168 new members, besides 10 other departments. New edition (just out,) revised and corrected by the author to date. New side stamp in gold. Exquisitely bound in flexible Morocco (pocket-book style) for the pocket. The price of the book is 75 cents prepaid. To any pastor who will send us *two* new subscribers, or *five* renewal subscribers, accompanied by the cash, we will send the book free prepaid. This is a most liberal offer.

Again, if you have never read "The New Acts of the Apostles," by Arthur T. Pierson, then you have missed an enthusiasm and an inspiration which you cannot afford to miss. The book should be in the home of every Christian. The price is \$1.50. For *four* new subscribers or for *ten* renewal subscribers accompanied by the cash we will send this book free prepaid. These are standard books and of permanent value, and you have an opportunity to get them free.

Again, we offer to our readers what has never been offered to them before: "The People's Bible History," prepared by the great thinkers, renowned scholars, wise writers and investigators of the nineteenth century. Among the authors of the book are William E. Gladstone, Canon Farrar, W. C. Wilkinson, A. H. Sayce and fifteen others of equal ability and authority. It is illustrated by artists, engravers whose names typify the highest standard of human genius and achievement. The manuscript for this work cost more than \$25,000. It is the most valuable contribution to the literature of the world since the production of the Bible itself. This magnificent work is bound in one volume of nearly 1,000 pages, in half levant, printed on good paper. *It is a new book*, and is destined to have an immense sale. The price is \$5.00. To any one sending us *eight* new subscribers or *twenty* renewals, the book will be sent free postpaid. It is under-

stood that *four* new subscribers and *ten* renewals will also secure the book free. Now friends here is an opportunity to secure the most valuable book of the day. Put your subs together and secure it as a present for your pastor. Do not forget that to secure these premiums cash must accompany the order. Further announcement next week.

#### The Blessedness of Giving

The *Christian Standard* of last week contains a short symposium on the subject of giving for missions. One of the contributors in a single paragraph tells of the richness and the sweet blessedness of the grace of giving, and how his own experience has verified the saying of Jesus; "It is more blessed to give than to receive." May this be the experience of every child of God. He says:

During the past year, in the congregation which it is my privilege to serve, I have seen something of the joy and blessedness of giving to the cause of Christ. Rising to the full appreciation of their privileges in his service our people gave freely, as between the individual members and their God, with only the constraint of love upon them, an amount sufficient to send a messenger of Jesus to those who have never heard his name. From that day to this, I am assured, the Father has seemed nearer and the Savior dearer. Giving till they *felt* it all came into the very fellowship of heaven. The recognition of *partnership with God* thrills all hearts. Love one to another was made tenderer, too, for there is an *actual* tie that binds—the tie of holy endeavor in a common cause. There is point and purpose in our association. Further still the view of each one was broadened and sympathies enlarged, while selfishness found stern rebuke. The "every creature" of the great commission comes to stand before the giver's mind and he appears as he did to the Master. To repulse him is pain, to give to him is blessed. This is the blessedness of giving seen in *enlargement of life*—closer touch with God—tenderer love among brethren and Christ-like concern for "every creature."

#### Personal Mention

Brother Flora closed a meeting at Warsaw, Ind., with one accession.

To one who can read between the lines, the short report by Brother Keim is decidedly encouraging.

At Claypool, Indiana, Brother Hopkins closed a meeting which resulted in several accessions and the church greatly revived.

Three more accessions reported in Philadelphia, by Brother Bowman. There seems to be a great awakening in that city.

The meeting at Maple Grove, Ind., by Brother Summers was continued by Brother Fox, and resulted in a number of accessions.

Brother R. R. Teeter has been doing excellent work at Darwin, Ind. A year ago he opened the work there with but few members. Now there is a membership of fifty-five, and a new house of worship free of debt. The meeting recently held at that